

Notice of Allowability

Application No.
09/909,661

Applicant(s)
Jacobson

Examiner
Craig Curtis

Art Unit
2872



--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment A filed on 6 January 2003.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31.

3. ☒ The drawings filed on Jan 7, 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

5. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

6. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application: **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

3 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5 ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449), Paper No(s). 5

7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

9 ☐ Other

2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____

6 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

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Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-31 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are allowable over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or to reasonably suggest, with regard to claims 1-10 & 13-21, *an apparatus comprising, inter alia, a housing having a plurality of at least four ports; a plurality of collimating lenses disposed within said housing, each of the plurality of collimating lenses to receive a light beam from a corresponding port; and a beamsplitter coupled to said plurality of collimating lenses, said beamsplitter having a common optical aperture disposed on an outer surface area to simultaneously receive said light beams received from each of said plurality of collimating lenses*; with regard to claims 11 & 12, *an apparatus comprising, inter alia, a housing having a plurality of ports, a plurality of collimating lenses disposed within said housing, each of the plurality of collimating lenses to receive a light beam from a corresponding port of said plurality of ports; a beamsplitter coupled to said plurality of collimating lenses to receive said light beam from each of said plurality of collimating lenses, the beamsplitter having a common optical aperture disposed on an outer surface area to simultaneously receive the light beam received from each of the plurality of collimating lenses, wherein the plurality of ports comprises first, second, third, and fourth input ports and first and second output ports*; with regard to claim 22, *an apparatus comprising, inter alia, a housing having a plurality of ports; a plurality of GRIN lenses disposed within said housing, each of said plurality*

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of GRIN lenses to receive a light beam from a corresponding port of said plurality of ports; and a rhombic prism having a common optical aperture, said common optical aperture coupled to said plurality of GRIN lenses to receive said light beam from each of said plurality of GRIN lenses, with regard to claims 23-27, a method comprising, inter alia, receiving a plurality of at least four input light beams by a single device having a common optical aperture; and spatially separating each of said plurality of at least four input light beams using said common optical aperture, and with regard to claims 28-31, an apparatus comprising, inter alia, means for receiving a plurality of at least four input light beams by a single device having a common optical aperture; and means for spatially separating each of said plurality of at least four input light beams using said common optical aperture, as set forth in the claimed combination.

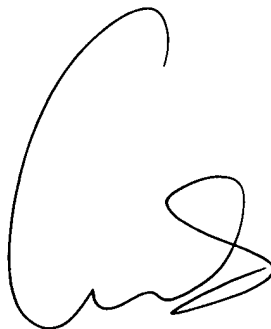
3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Craig Curtis, whose telephone number is (703) 305-0776. The facsimile phone number for Art Unit 2872 is (703) 308-7721.

Any inquiry of a general nature regarding to status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Audrey Chang', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

**Audrey Chang
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800**

Craig M. Curtis
Craig M. Curtis
Group Art Unit 2872
1 April 2003